

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration of this application pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.116, as amended.

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter within Claims 14–23 and 25–34.

Claims 13 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Raymond (US 3,774,536) in view of Smith (US 4,365,334). Claims 14–23 and 25–34 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response to the objection, Claims 13 and 24 have been canceled without prejudice, and Claims 14, 19, 23, 25, 30 and 34 have been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the respective base claim. Consequently, Applicant submits that Claims 14–23 and 25–34 are allowable.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that this application now be passed to issue, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

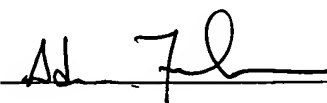
If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and has not been requested separately, such extension is hereby requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees and to credit any overpayments that may be required by this paper under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 02-2135.

Respectfully submitted,

Rothwell, Figg, Ernst & Manbeck, P.C.

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1936-117 AF Response